

**THE OFFICIAL
LEGISLATIVE
ACTIVITY BOOK
OF THE CALIFORNIA
STATE SENATE**



compliments of
Senator
Jeff Stone, Pharm.D.

Super Puzzles and Fun Activities!



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Dear Student

This activity book has been prepared as a fun introduction to the California State Legislature. **The Legislature is the branch of government that makes the state laws.** The Legislature is divided into two bodies: the Senate and the Assembly. It is located in the California State Capitol in Sacramento.

There are 40 Senate Districts, so there are 40 Senators, and each Senate District has 931,349 people living in it. There are 80 Assembly Districts, so there are 80 Assemblymembers. Each Assembly District has 465,675 people living in it. With most jobs, people can usually work for as long as they like or until they have to retire. The Legislature is different. **Senators and Assembly Members can only stay in the Legislature for a total of 12 years. This is called term limits.**

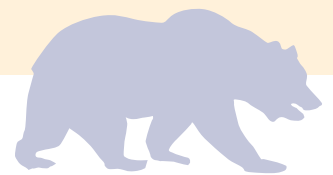
Members of both the Senate and the Assembly write and pass laws that will make California a better place to live. A bill is an idea for a law. To vote on a bill, Senators use a voice vote. When their names are called, they answer "Aye" (yes) or "No" and then their votes are announced.

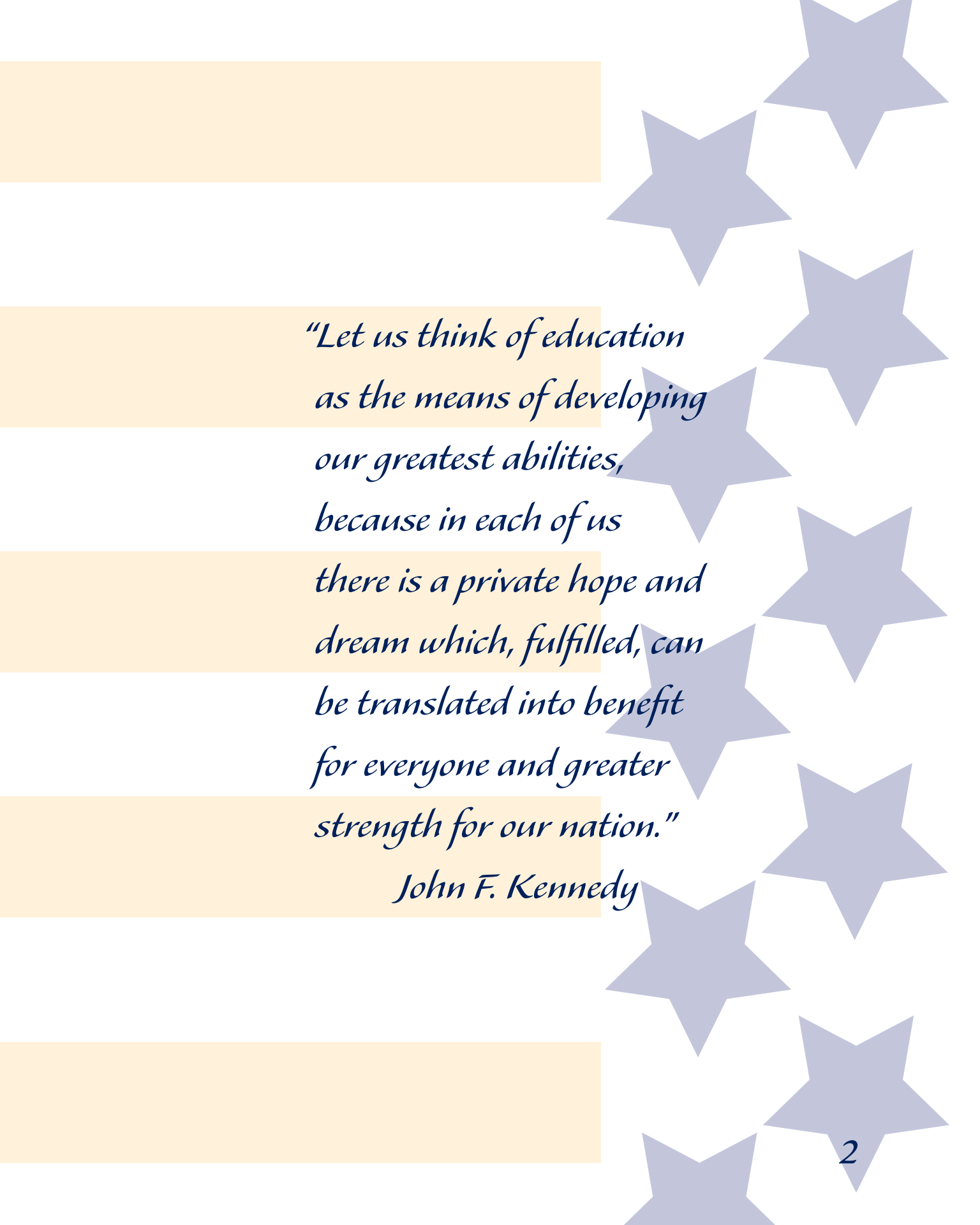
When the entire Senate meets, they are in Floor Session. **The Senators elect a leader to oversee these proceedings. The leader of the Senate is called the President pro Tempore of the Senate.** The President pro Tem is in charge of the Senate when they meet on the Senate Floor. **When the Senate is not in Floor Session, the Senators meet in small groups called committees that specialize in issue areas, such as health or education.**

When the Senators are not working in Sacramento, they go home to their own districts to meet with their constituents. Constituents are the men, women and children who live in a Senate District.

This should give you a head start with this activity booklet. Use the information from this first page to start the first game. Have fun!

**Jeff Stone, Pharm.D.
Senator, 28th District**



The background features a series of horizontal stripes in a light beige or cream color, alternating with white space. On the right side of the page, there is a vertical column of ten five-pointed stars in a muted purple or lavender color. The stars are arranged in a slightly staggered, descending pattern from top to bottom.

*"Let us think of education
as the means of developing
our greatest abilities,
because in each of us
there is a private hope and
dream which, fulfilled, can
be translated into benefit
for everyone and greater
strength for our nation."*

John F. Kennedy

FILL IN THE BLANK

Based on the information on the previous pages, answer each question by filling in the blank with the letter of the correct answer. Use each answer just once. To get started, the answer to question #1 is “state laws,” so fill in the letter “C.”



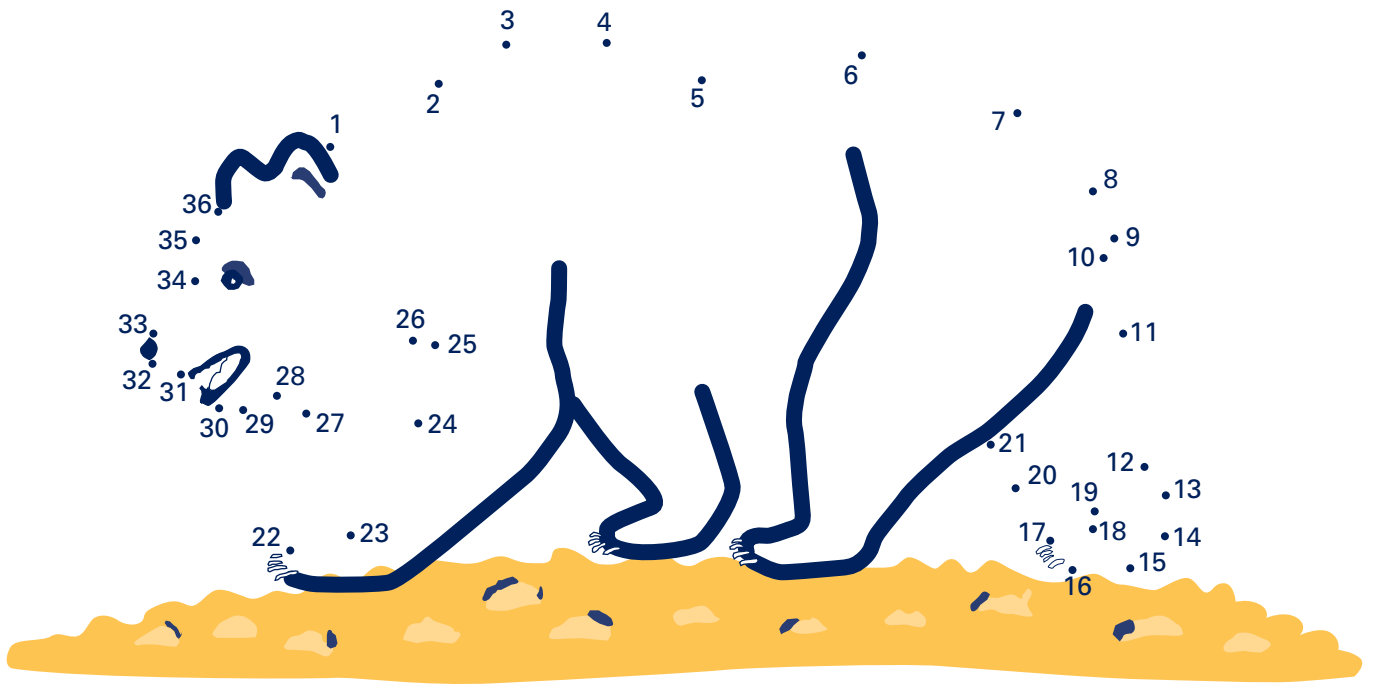
1. The Legislature is the group of people that make _____.
2. The Legislature meets in our State Capitol in the city of _____.
3. Each Senate District has about _____ people.
4. The Legislature is divided into two parts: the Senate and the _____.
5. Each Assembly District has about _____ people.
6. It is the job of the Senate and Assembly to _____.
7. There are _____ Senators in California.
8. There are _____ Assembly Members in California.
9. Senators can work in the Senate for a total of _____ years.
10. Assembly Members can work in the Assembly for a total of _____ years.
11. When the entire Senate meets, they are in Floor _____.
12. Legislators can introduce _____ that may become laws.
13. The leader of the Senate is called the _____.
14. People who live in the Senator’s district are _____.
15. Senators may serve up to three _____-year terms in the Senate.
16. The number of years a person can work for the Legislature is called _____.
17. When Senators are not working in Sacramento they return to their _____.
18. Senators meet to vote on bills in policy _____ such as Education, Health or Transportation.

- | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| A. 12 | G. Bills | M. 40 |
| B. 931,349 | H. 12 | N. Four |
| C. State laws | I. Sacramento | O. Session |
| D. Committees | J. 465,675 | P. Term limits |
| E. 80 | K. districts | Q. Pass laws |
| F. Constituents | L. President pro Tempore | R. Assembly |

1.C 2.I 3.B 4.R 5.J 6.Q 7.M 8.E 9.A 10.H 11.O 12.G 13.L 14.F 15.N 16.P 17.K 18.D

CONNECT THE NUMBERS TO FIND THE HIDDEN PICTURE

Connect the numbers 1 to 21. Pick up your pencil and start again at number 22, finish connecting to number 30, pick up your pencil again, and begin at number 31 drawing to the end, number 36.

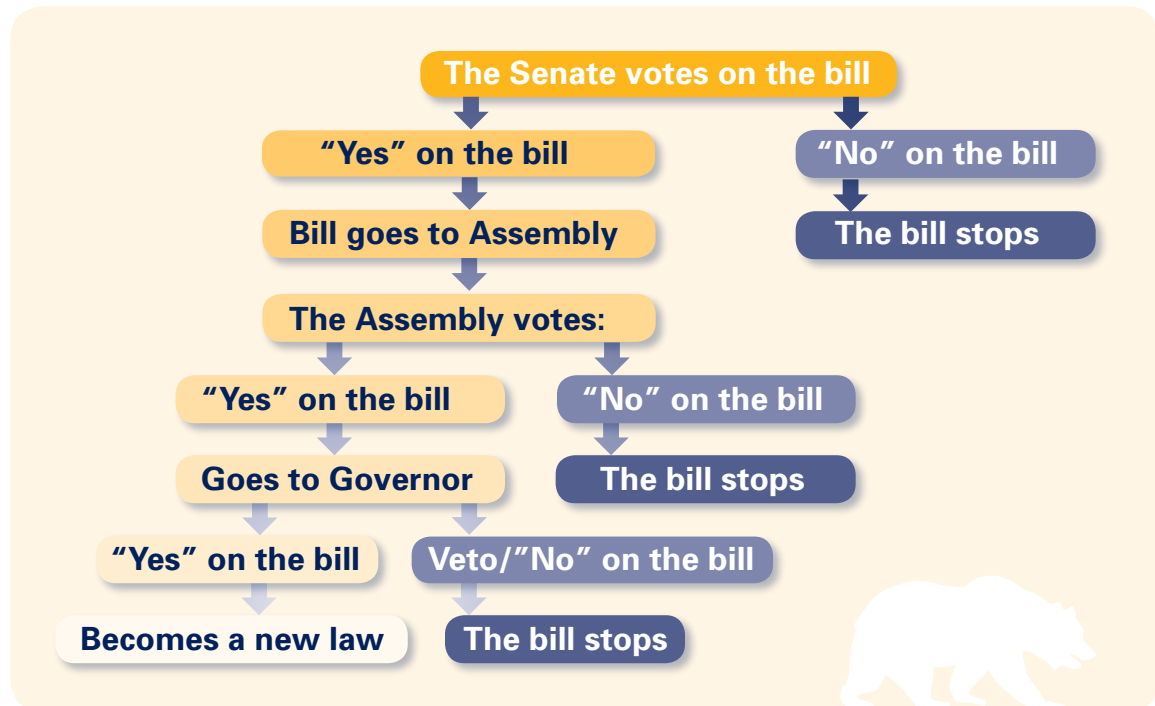


A REPUBLIC

HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW

Read below to learn how an idea, called a "bill," actually becomes a law. Sometimes there are even more steps, but these are the main ones.

1. The Senators get together on the Senate Floor and talk about whether or not they think the bill is a good idea. Then everyone gets to vote. Senators say their vote out loud. When their names are called, they answer "Aye" (yes) or "No" and then their votes are announced. Most bills need a majority vote to pass. So with 40 Senators, it takes 21 votes to pass a bill. A bill that raises taxes needs a 2/3 vote (27 Senators) to pass.
2. If the bill passes out of the Senate, it then goes to the Assembly and they get to vote on it. Since there are 80 Assemblymembers it takes 41 votes to pass a bill out of the Assembly.
3. There is one step left. The Governor of California has the last word, and he gets to decide whether or not the bill actually becomes a law.
 - If the Governor doesn't like the bill, he says "no," which is called a veto. A veto means the bill will not become a law.
 - If the Governor approves the bill, he can say "yes" by signing it, and the bill becomes a law. The Governor can also choose to do nothing for one month, in which case the bill automatically becomes a law.



The most exciting thing about California's state government is that everyone can be involved in making laws. Ideas for new bills can come from anyone, even from students. New laws help solve problems in the community, such as pollution and traffic problems.

A decorative background for a notebook page. It features ten horizontal blue lines. On the right side, there are stylized yellow flowers with five petals and thin, feathery stems. The flowers are partially cut off by the right edge of the page.

6



THE GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Why does California have a seal? The Great Seal is like a team logo. It identifies people that live here as being part of the community called California. California's seal was adopted way back in 1849.

The Great Seal is more than just a beautiful picture. Everything in the seal has a special meaning. Find each one of the things that the designers of the seal wanted people to know about California.

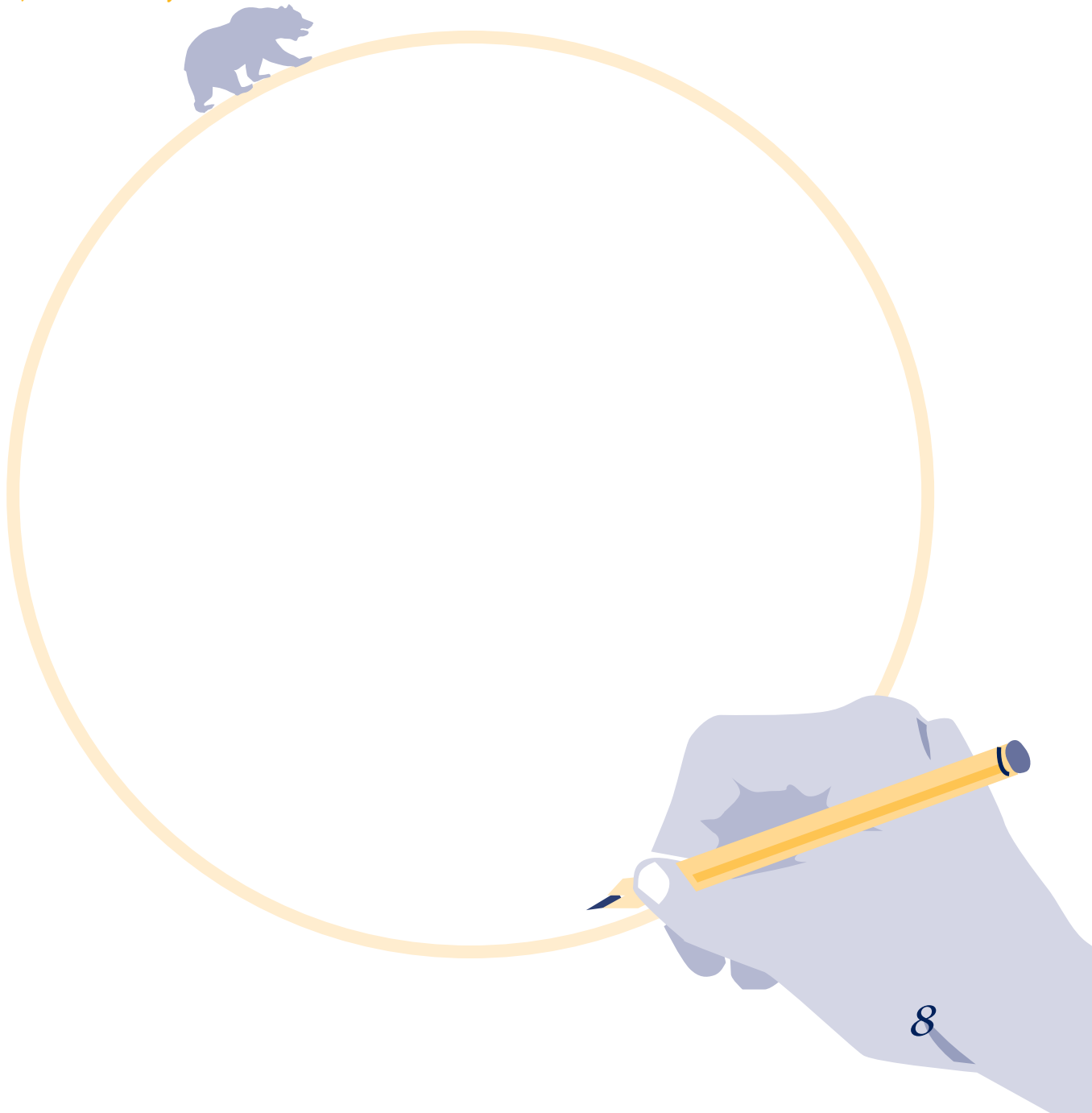
- There are 31 stars in the sky, because California was the 31st state to be admitted to the Union.
- Right under the 31 stars is the Greek word, "Eureka." It means "I have found it." It refers to the gold that people found in California and to the new state that people had found.
- In the foreground is the grizzly bear, which was common in California, with a sheaf of wheat on the ground, to be crushed into flour for bread.
- The California Gold Rush started in 1849 and a miner can be seen swinging his pick. Beside him are a rocker and bowl used for panning gold.
- Ships that fill the harbor are symbols of the exports of gold and other exciting new things that would be found in California and shipped from the new state.
- The person holding a staff is the Greek Goddess Minerva, the goddess of wisdom, commerce and crafts and the inventor of music.



DRAW A NEW GREAT SEAL

Over the years, California has changed because of the growth in population and technology. If the Great Seal was designed today, it would probably look very different. What types of things represent California today? What would a new Great Seal tell people about California?

Draw a new Great Seal that shows the things that make California special today.



WORD SEARCH & JUMBLE

Find the words from the word bank in the puzzle. They may be vertical, horizontal, diagonal, upside down or backwards.



Word Bank: SENATE, EUREKA, LAW, STATE SEAL, BILL, FLAG, LEGISLATURE, VOTE, CALIFORNIA, GOLD, SACRAMENTO, CAPITOL, GOVERNOR, ASSEMBLY

Fill in the spaces below with the underlined letters from the word bank. Then unscramble them to find out the names of California's state colors!

California's state colors are: _____ & _____

YOUR STATE REPRESENTATIVES

Many constituents write letters and call their state representatives to talk about issues.

Find out who the representatives for your community are and how they can be reached.

California State Officers

Governor:

Name

Phone: ()

E-mail:

Address:

State Senator:

Name

Phone: ()

E-mail:

Address:

State Assemblymember:

Name

Phone: ()

E-mail:

Address:

Tip: State officials can be found at:

- the front section of the phone book,
- the California State Government website: www.ca.gov,
- the California State Senate website: www.senate.ca.gov, and
- the California State Assembly website: www.assembly.ca.gov.





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